

both the authors and the publisher have used every effort to render their 'History of British Sessile-eyed Crustacea' as perfect as possible. It is a work to which we most heartily wish success, and which we can warmly recommend to the notice of our readers.

The Tropical World: a Popular Scientific Account of the Natural History of the Animal and Vegetable Kingdoms in the Equatorial Regions. By Dr. G. HARTWIG. With eight Chromoxylographic Plates and numerous Woodcuts. 8vo. London, Longmans, 1863.

ONE of our ancient Universities is adorned by the presence of an academic dignitary, of whom it has been somewhat irreverently said that, while science is his forte, omniscience is his foible. It seems to us that Dr. Hartwig's talents entitle him to a remark exactly the converse. Notwithstanding the expectation held out to us by his title-page, we have been entirely at a loss to discover the "scientific" element in his work. It is completely swamped by the "popular" treatment. Moreover we do not see the advantage of culling, from authors who have, in the best sense of the word, achieved "popularity," passages which are as generally known to Englishmen as the way from Hyde-Park Corner to the Mansion House. Nor, in stringing together these extracts, does the compiler anywhere exhibit the skill or art of the magician who, with one wave of his wand, re-animates dry bones and calls up ideas that might otherwise remain dormant even in the minds of the imaginative. Sir Emerson Tennant has had his thousands of readers, and Dr. Livingstone his tens of thousands. What, then, but the very demon of book-making has prompted the Heidelberg doctor to publish this exceedingly useless work? We indeed admire his knowledge of our difficult idiom, which he writes with scarcely a mistake, and generally with a purity to which many of our countrymen are strangers; but (and we say it advisedly) his language never rises with his theme above the very commonest of common-place expression. One chapter of the descriptive portion of 'Tom Cringle's Log' will give a person who has never left the temperate zone a better notion of many physical aspects of the tropical world than a perusal of the whole of this big octavo.

Thus we fully endorse the strictures that were passed upon Dr. Hartwig's former volume in these pages*. The two books are, *mutatis mutandis*, as like one another as two peas. We have the same abundant poverty of illustrations—woodcuts not better than those which deface many a penny broad sheet, and, worse than these, the marvellous tricoloured engravings dignified by the euphonious designation of "chromoxylographic plates." It is well, however, to be thankful for small mercies: 'The Sea and its Living Wonders' was embellished by a dozen of these monstrous productions; in the 'Tropical World' the number is diminished by one-third. We have been puzzling ourselves to no purpose by trying to account for the insertion, among so much rubbish, of the figure of the Mongoose

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., January 1861, pp. 63-67.

(p. 323), the very curve of whose tail enabled us to detect the true value of the design, before we recognized in the corner the "hall-mark" of Mr. Wolf's initials.

Nothing disgusts a mechanic so much as to witness a loss of power in an engine of any sort—a pulley unskilfully applied, a lever acting at a manifest disadvantage, a pinion obviously misfitted. This, then, is our feeling when we regard Dr. Hartwig's works. Here is a German gentleman with an amount of application uncommon among any but those of his own nation, having the advantages of a very accurate acquaintance with English and of scientific tastes, who yet will insist upon fitting out our countrymen with a knowledge of what they either know already or may easily know of themselves. On the other hand is a vast mass of scientific literature in a language which comparatively few Englishmen comprehend, and which it would be of the greatest use for them to understand. Why should not Dr. Hartwig employ his powers in aiding them in this respect? Why should he not publish, in London, translations of some of those valuable treatises which are still sealed books to English naturalists? We are not defending our ordinary educational course, we are but simply giving utterance to a fact, when we say that a large majority of our fellow-labourers in this country are unable to become acquainted, except at a great sacrifice of time, with much that has been already worked out, and oftentimes admirably worked out, by the industrious brains of our Teutonic neighbours.

Phosphorescence, or the Emission of Light by Minerals, Plants, and Animals. By T. L. PHIPSON, Ph.D., F.C.S. London: Reeve & Co., 1862. 12mo.

The phenomena referred to by Dr. Phipson, in the little work before us, under the general term "phosphorescence," are of a very varied nature, and can scarcely be regarded as all falling under one category. They include all emissions of light which cannot be accounted for directly as phenomena of electricity or combustion; nay, some even of the latter, such as the luminosity of phosphorus, are considered as examples of phosphorescence by our author. Certain cosmical and meteorological phenomena, such as the zodiacal light, the apparent train of light left in the track of many aërolites, luminous fogs, &c., are also mentioned as examples of phosphorescence; indeed the author seems to have been anxious to omit noticing no luminous phenomenon the cause of which cannot readily be explained. Apart from all these doubtful instances, we have, however, a large number of phenomena to which no other term than that of phosphorescence can be applied: there are numerous mineral, vegetable, and animal substances to which the name of "light-bearers" may with justice be applied, and the emission of light from which is still entirely unexplained. We have minerals which give out light after exposure to the sun, and others which present similar phenomena when heated to a temperature far below that of incandescence. From others light is given off when they are rubbed or